



Mr. Ed Roberson
Utah State Director
Bureau of Land Management
440 West 200 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

April 18th, 2018

RE: September 2018 lease sale public comment period

Dear Mr. Roberson,

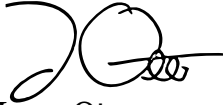
We write today to request the inclusion of a public comment period of the draft Environmental Assessment for the September 2018 oil and gas lease sale in Utah. The National Parks Conservation Association represents thousands of Utahns who, along with our 1.3 million members and supporters nationwide, understand the need to preserve and protect our National Park System throughout the country. To that end, we hope that our comments, along with the input of many concerned members of the public will inform the oil and gas leasing decisions in the area around Canyonlands and Capitol Reef National Parks, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and their connected landscape.

Currently there is no indication that a public comment period, except for during scoping, will be included in the lease sale. This raises concerns from park advocates who will be left out of key public land management decisions that could have a negative impact on Utah's parks and its \$1.6 billion-dollar economy. Throughout the west, and particularly in Utah, the balanced management of a dynamic, complex landscape is critical to ensuring that our natural wonders are protected, local and State economies grow, public health is safeguarded and our cultural heritage continues to be part our collective spirit. These shared goals can only be achieved through an inclusive, collaborative process that allows the public to be a participant in managing their public lands.

We encourage you schedule a 30-day public comment period of the Draft EA that will allow for meaningful public consultation and input regarding important oil and gas leasing decisions as proposed.

Thank you for considering our request and we look forward to our continued work with you and your staff.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JO' followed by a stylized flourish.

Jerry Otero
Southwest Energy Program Manager
National Parks Conservation Association